



CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MINDANAO

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM-2) PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The **GEM-2 Program** continues and expands on the work carried out under the original GEM Program, which operated from 1996 to 2002. The GEM-2 Program got underway in late 2002. The Program is expected to operate until the end of 2007.

The GEM-2 Program operates throughout Mindanao, but has a special focus on the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao (CAAM).

OBJECTIVES

The GEM-2 Program has two related principal objectives:

- ✓ to accelerate economic growth in Mindanao and help assure that as many people as possible, including members of cultural and religious minorities, benefit from the economic growth
- ✓ to help bring about and consolidate peace in Mindanao

The GEM-2 Program works with producer associations and cooperatives, NGOs, business councils, chambers of commerce, local governments, the Government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, national government line agencies, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, private firms, Parent-Teacher-Community Associations and other organizations and individuals working to bring about equitably distributed economic growth and strengthened peace in Mindanao.

The GEM-2 Program provides financial support, on a cost-sharing basis only, to organizations working to bring about equitably distributed economic growth and peace in Mindanao.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Community and Mid-Scale Infrastructure Programs (CIP and MSIP)
- Education Improvement
- Targeted Commodity Expansion Program (TCEP)
- Business Support Organization (BSO) Development
- ARMM Governance Improvement
- Policy Modification Assistance
- Targets of Opportunity

COMMUNITY AND MID-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS (CIP) (MSIP)

Under the **Community Infrastructure Program (CIP)**, GEM-2 will undertake the implementation of up to 800 small infrastructure projects like water systems, warehouses, solar dryers, boat landings, culverts, community centers, bridge and roadway upgrades or repairs, etc. The great majority of these projects will be in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, and will be undertaken in partnership with local governments, community groups, and cooperatives.



Under the **Mid-Scale Infrastructure Program (MSIP)**, GEM-2 will undertake the implementation of critically needed projects such as improvements to ports, roads, and bridges in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.

BUSINESS SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (BSO) DEVELOPMENT



GEM-2 will help to ensure that fully effective and financially self-sufficient **BSOs** representing and servicing all significant agribusiness sectors in Mindanao are in place and effectively functioning. All those BSOs will have substantial levels of activity in the conflict-affected areas.

TARGETED COMMODITY EXPANSION PROGRAM (TCEP)

Through the **TCEP**, GEM-2 will: help to bring about the solid introduction or significant expansion of production and marketing of several lucrative, non-traditional commodities in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao; help to assure that all elements of the "cold chains" and "cool chains" needed to allow substantial expansion of shipments of vegetables and fruit to markets throughout the Philippines and the Asia region are in place; help assure that the harvests of marine resources do not exceed sustainable levels and that the sector provides an optimal, long term contribution to economic development; and help assure a major expansion of exports of fish, fruit, and vegetables to the large and growing China market.



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PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Principal offices of the **GEM-2 Program** are located in :
Davao City (Project Management Office),
Zamboanga City and Cotabato City.

Satellite offices are located in General Santos City, Cagayan de Oro City and Manila.

GEM-2 is implemented in partnership with the **Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo)**. Oversight is provided by a Steering Committee chaired by MEDCo.

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MSIP.CIP.CIP.TCEP.CLIC.EASE

ARMM EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT



GEM-2 will assist LGUs in conflict-affected areas to address some of the problems facing education in those areas. Key areas of assistance will include: introducing internet-connected computers to high schools in conflict-affected areas and training high school teachers and students on their use [undertaken through GEM-

2's **Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program**]; and supporting efforts initiated by PTCAs and other community groups to upgrade the quality of education in community schools [undertaken through GEM-2's **Education Awareness Support Effort (EASE) Program**].

ARMM GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT

GEM-2 will assist governments in ARMM to address several key governance issues, such as: relations with the national government; relations with donors; infrastructure planning and implementation; procurement procedures and practices; personnel management procedures.



GEM-2 will also administer a **"Congressional Internship" Program** which, each year, will give some 30-50 recent graduates from universities in the ARMM and neighboring conflict-affected areas the opportunity to spend four months working in the Philippine Congress on various important legislative and policy matters.

POLICY MODIFICATION ASSISTANCE

GEM-2 will assist the ARMM Government, other local governments, Business Support Organizations, and national government agencies: to identify government policies and practices which may not be optimal in the context of bringing about rapid and equitable economic growth in Mindanao; to identify alternative policies and practices; and to help them plan and carry out efforts needed to bring about adoption of the more desirable policies and practices.

"TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY"

GEM-2 will assist relevant government units and others to identify problems and opportunities that may emerge during the **GEM-2** implementation period, and to design interventions that can address those problems and take advantage of those opportunities.